

NEWS RELEASE

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Tobacco Prevention Coordinators Hold Meeting in Minot

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health's Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control will hold its quarterly meeting in Minot July 22, 2004. Tobacco prevention coordinators from local public health units across the state will meet to discuss tobacco prevention and health issues.

"We are very excited to bring this meeting to Minot," said Kathleen Mangskau, director of the Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control. "Minot has taken the lead in North Dakota as the first city to pass a smoke-free restaurant ordinance. By holding our meeting in Minot, we are recognizing the importance of smoke-free facilities and their impact on the public's health. We look forward to convening meetings in other cities as they become smoke-free."

The tobacco prevention coordinators will receive information about tobacco control strategies that have worked in other states from Dianne May of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office on Smoking and Health. They also will share information about cessation programs, smoke-free environments and youth access to tobacco.

"It's encouraging to see North Dakota's tobacco prevention coordinators use the information in their communities to promote health," Mangskau said. "They are truly working to sustain a healthy North Dakota."

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